

# The Farmington Times.

VOL. 43

FARMINGTON, ST. FRANCOIS COUNTY, MISSOURI, FRIDAY, JULY 14, 1916.

NO. 27

## ASSESSOR LAWENCE WELLS

### "DELIVERING THE GOODS"

**His Books Show That He Is Bringing Up The Values Of Corporation Property To Proper Level.**

County Assessor Lawrence O. Wells is now deep in the work of making the 1917 assessment for St. Francois county, which will keep him busy until December 1, by which time the entire assessment must be completed, according to the law governing that matter. It will also be impossible for him to give much time to his present campaign, as he is determined to give to his office all the time necessary to properly perform his work.

And right here The Times would suggest that there appears to be a very serious flaw in the law governing this office. It is practically impossible for a new man on the job to make a fair and equitable assessment of all properties subject to taxation within the time prescribed by law that the assessment must be made. Yet the assessment is supposed to cover the property on hand June 1st, so that the making of the assessment could not be at all reliable if the work were commenced before that date. Therefore it would seem that the one way to increase the efficiency in the Assessor's office would be to give him more time for the work—say make the date covering property to be assessed April 1 instead of June 1. This would give the Assessor two more months in which to do the assessing and make up his books.

A Times reporter this week secured a few totals from Assessor Wells' books, which show a most satisfactory condition of affairs in that office. For instance, we found that the present incumbent's assessments for the years 1914-15 were in excess of his predecessor's assessment for the years 1912-13 to the amount of \$912,467; total taxes levied for 1914-15 were in excess of those for 1912-13 to the amount of \$92,324. Here are the figures:

Total assessment 1912-13, \$24,096,586  
Total assessment 1914-15, 25,099,053

Net gain for two years, \$ 1,003,467  
Total taxes levied on above assessments for 1912-13, \$453,643.63  
Total taxes levied on above assessments for 1914-15, 545,967.00

Net gain in revenue of 1914-15 over 1912-13, \$ 92,324.00

## County Court Proceedings

Court met for one day on July 3, all the officers being present and transacted the following business:

The Sugar Grove Telephone Co., composed of David Hartshorn, John Pinkston, L. T. Hart, et al., was granted rights to set up poles, etc., necessary to construct its line.

E. K. Hawn and the DeSoto Crushing and Construction Co. filed bonds under their contract to furnish crushed rock, the former for the Jackson road and the latter for the Bismarck and Frankland road.

County Clerk Wulferd filed his account for making the tax books for 1916 for the use of the Collector and for extending the taxes upon the assessment books for said year, and for other services. The same was approved and the Clerk was authorized to certify to the State Auditor for payment the amount due for such services by the State, amounting to \$617.40.

The Murphy and White Telephone Co., a partnership, was granted the right to construct its telephone lines, beginning at Knob Lick and running along the Knob Lick and Mine La Motte road to the Madison county line.

Gilbert Rigsbee, adjudged insane, was committed to State Hospital No. 4 as a county patient.

Court adjourned to Monday, July 10, when it convened with all the officers present, and held a two-days' session, transacting the following business:

Appointment of Judges of Election for the Primary Election August 1st. List of Judges appears under separate heading.

F. L. Graham and Dock Mackley were selected, the former by J. W. Banes and the latter by the Court, to arbitrate a claim of Mr. Banes for certain ground used from his farm on a county highway.

The State Auditor was authorized and requested to draw his warrant in favor of County Treasurer Haile for amount of salary due County Superintendent of Schools for quarter ending June 30th.

C. W. Francisco, highway engineer, filed plans, specifications and estimates of cost for permanent and continuing improvement of Burks road (1.1-4 miles), St. Louis road (2 miles), Bismarck and Frankland road (2.1-2 miles), Jackson road (1.1-2 miles), consisting of grading, concrete culverts and permanent rock dressing, the estimated cost of which is \$25,000. The plans, etc., were approved by the court, and the amount ordered to be set aside from the road funds for that purpose. It was also ordered that the clerk make requisition upon the State Auditor for \$12,500 from the State general road fund under chapter 5, sections 11914 to 11918 revised statutes.

In view of the above remarkable showing, it is but just to say that the assessable value of St. Francois county property has not been noticeably increased, nor diminished. The property as shown in the 1914-15 assessments has been here all the time, but those figures are but an indication of what a difference a close, careful and capable assessment can make. That Assessor Wells is unusually careful and capable along such lines cannot be successfully gainsaid. The above figures substantiate such a statement.

The present assessment has already progressed sufficiently far to make the prediction a certainty that the present year's tax levies will again be increased by many thousands of dollars over last year's assessment. Yet the raise will not be on farm nor city property, which will not be boosted in any way. But the great increase in assessments will come from raises in corporation holdings and considerable other property that has heretofore escaped taxation. This indicates the efficiency that comes from experience and ability.

This year Bonne Terre alone will receive an increase in assessment of \$222,308 over last year, which will mean an absolute lowering of school taxes, even though a new school building has just been completed there. Flat River will have an increase in assessed values of \$280,817, which will net them in increased taxes \$15,540.88 more school money than in 1912-13. Other districts, such as Deleage and Leadwood, show proportionate increases in their assessments. The assessment throughout the county for the present year, over that of last year, will be, conservatively speaking, something near \$1,000,000.

Do you think that anyone could make a just and equitable assessment? We would reply that there are few more difficult things to accomplish than an absolutely fair assessment of property values in such a county as St. Francois. Lawrence Wells has practically all the natural qualities for making a just assessment, and now, with his four years of experience in that office, he is prepared to "deliver the goods", as it will be found he has done when the present assessment is completed.

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## Primary Election

Following is a list of the Judges of Election for the Primary Election, August 1, together with the name and number of the precincts and post-office addresses, where the address is different from the name of the precinct:

Farmington No. 1.—Dan Giessing, Josiah Bretz, Rina Lang, Thos. H. Stam, John Towl, Wm. O'Sullivan.  
Farmington No. 2.—Barney Pelty, Wm. Matkin, Peter Moll, Lott Griffin, Sam Isenman, John Harter.

Deleage No. 3.—P. O. address, Farmington R. F. D. No. 6.—John Flannery, Giles Hunt, Chas. Lotz, Gus Halter, Dr. E. M. Herwig, Zach P. Cole.

Flat River No. 4.—Don Cameron, Jesse M. Garrett, Henry Thomson, F. M. Horton, S. B. Hart, Geo. W. Cloud.  
East Flat River No. 5.—P. O. address, Flat River.—George Jordan, Bert Cooper, R. H. Robinson, John Benham, Guy Eaton, Irvin Smith.

Ether No. 6.—Jas. Medlock, J. M. Appleberry, O. L. Johnson, J. W. Jones, Emmett Barton, Wm. Perryman.  
East Elvins No. 7.—P. O. address, Elvins.—Chas. Large, Carter Ashlock, J. P. Head, Carl Jamison, Ralph Newcomer, Perry Moore.

St. Francois No. 8.—Gilbert Johnson, N. A. Zimmerman, Ray Stewart, L. A. Poston, Sam Chamberlain, Judge A. W. Kinzer.  
Bonne Terre No. 9.—J. H. Wolpers, Henry McFarland, Geo. Hargrave, A. K. Fraser, Fred Francis, Harve Pirtle.

Bogytown No. 10.—P. O. address, Bonne Terre.—Thos. G. Mitchell, Geo. N. Fike, Ben Bisch, Abe Ringer, Lester Wells, W. H. Madern.  
Cedar Falls No. 11.—P. O. address, Bonne Terre R. F. D. No. 1.—Louis Merritt, John Cook, A. S. Krecke, Abe Herod, Wm. Rubottom, Kennett Byington.

Hazel Run No. 12.—P. O. address, Bonne Terre R. F. D. No. 1.—Wm. Cloe, Charley Fowler, Ed Landolt, Bryan McCarthy, Jacob Busher, Wm. Benham.  
French Village No. 13.—John M. Snodell, J. D. Pinkston, Emmett Lathay, R. W. Pigg, T. O. Byington, W. L. Eaton.

Chadbourne No. 14.—P. O. address, Halifax.—Jake Mathey, Peter Murphy, W. E. Heaton, Geo. Turley, J. T. Boring, Ed Dryden.  
Blackwell No. 15.—James Pashia, J. R. Polite, Sad Johnson, Everett Cole, Robert Worden, John Butler.

Bismarck No. 16.—Hugh Steele, Wm. U. Devine, Gus Steffen, Chris Sansoucie, C. J. Hill, James W. Matkin.

Iron Mountain No. 17.—J. L. Eaton, John Williams, Henry Ruh, John Huff, W. H. Forshes, Jackson Matkin.  
Libertyville No. 18.—C. F. Detring, E. O. Presnell, N. C. Sebastian, D. M. Lewis, Theo. Kiepe, Ralph Tillman.

Knob Lick No. 19.—Pleas Williams, R. A. Murphy, W. M. Milne, Rob Hibbitts, J. S. Jarnigan, Henry O'Bannon.  
Rockwood No. 20.—P. O. address, Womack.—John Johnson, W. A. King, John Shaw, Lawsoa McFarney, Joshua Hahn, George Beard.

Doe Run No. 21.—Sherman West, J. L. Cleveland, Fritz Gruner, Frank Robinson, Joseph Faulkner, Dan O'Sullivan.  
Deleage No. 1, No. 22.—F. B. Conway, F. M. Monroe, Rolla Watson, Gus Euhler, L. D. Meadows, James Morris.

Deleage No. 2, No. 23.—Geo. Jinkerson, W. P. Sizemore, Geo. Cartee, Frank Sterrett, William Eaves, Jas. B. Ward.  
West Elvins No. 24.—P. O. address, Elvins.—Paul Roegner, Geo. Langdon, Robert Maurer, T. J. Buckner, H. McCarron, Louis Layne.

Leadwood No. 25.—Lee Hulsey, John Sizemore, Emmett McComber, W. P. Belknap, Ellis Seaborn, Wm. Day.  
Frankland No. 26.—W. M. Mills, A. G. O'Neal, Ferd Strauss, Sam McFarland, W. M. Compton, George Jordan.

Davis Crossing No. 27.—P. O. address, Elvins R. F. D. No. 1.—Chas. Penberthy, Norman Belknap, R. Black, Geo. Crocker, O. E. Hansbrough, Geo. Lindsay.  
Mitchell No. 28.—P. O. address, Elvins R. F. D. No. 1.—E. H. Duemler, Emmett Belknap, Fred Sneed, J. W. McDowell, John Mueller, John Hardin.

Cherryville No. 29.—P. O. address, Leadwood.—Geo. Hughes, E. W. Hughes, John Akers, T. J. Simms, Fred Bradley, J. H. Tulleck.  
Clearview No. 30.—P. O. address, Farmington R. F. D. No. 3.—W. E. Boyd, Leo F. Smith, Geo. Herzinger, Elza Burgess, Geo. Mackley, C. C. Simms.

Barroll's Orchestra  
a Hit at Arcadia

Barroll's Concert Orchestra of Farmington, assisted by Miss Mabel Sackman, reader, Mr. Carl Trauernicht, monologist, and Miss Barbara Caroline Tullock, violinist, gave two very successful concerts at the Methodist Assembly at Arcadia this week.

The first concert was Tuesday evening, and the second Wednesday afternoon. Owing to the fact the Assembly was just beginning, and those who customarily attend it had not all arrived yet, the crowds were relatively small. But it was estimated there were 1500 people at the evening concert, and fully 2000 the next afternoon, coming from all parts of Missouri and a few from other States.

The orchestra pleased the audience thoroughly, as usual, and quite a few people were surprised to find so uncommon an organization hailing from a small town like Farmington. A St. Louis traveling man who happened to be present said: "I've been a regular attendant at Chautauquus for the past ten years, wherever I've been, and have heard many musical attractions, but I have never heard anything so thoroughly good of its kind before. That town, Farmington, certainly should be proud of an orchestra like that."

Miss Sackman and Mr. Trauernicht each held the audience spellbound indefinitely, and left the platform with the applause ringing for more. Little Miss Barbara Caroline Tullock proved a real hit before this audience and was compelled to take an encore. The vocal solos, cornet solos, piano duets, string quartettes, violin solos, and other specialties given by members of the Orchestra were well received, as they always are.

The Orchestra attended the Assembly as guests of the management, and were royally entertained. The boys and girls speak of Rev. Nelson B. Henry as the prince of hosts, and his associates all contributed to the general good time given the musicians. It was the general opinion expressed that no entertainment feature since the Assembly started seven years ago has been of such universal pleasure and genuine delight to all as these concerts of Barroll's Orchestra. And it is productive of satisfaction here at home that the boasted "talent" for which Farmington is deservedly famous could be so truly represented before these audiences drawn from all over the State. Barroll's Orchestra is not only a source of pleasure to Farmington but it is a valuable advertisement as well. Barroll deserves a great deal of credit for building up so splendid an organization, and doing it with the material found at home. Anybody with the price can go into the market and employ musicians, but it is quite another matter to train home boys and girls so that they become genuinely proficient and make it unnecessary to import outside talent. This is exactly what Barroll has done for Farmington, and while the town has in the past had many bands, it has not hitherto had a real orchestra—one worthy of a name honored since the days of the old masters.

## Judges Selected

Blackwell No. 15.—James Pashia, J. R. Polite, Sad Johnson, Everett Cole, Robert Worden, John Butler.  
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Good Work By  
The D. A. R.

The Sarah Barton Murphy Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution have been engaged in the commendable work of putting the Knights of Pythias Cemetery in a presentable condition. Crystal Lodge K. of P. has turned over to them the amount it has used to go over the grounds about once a year to cut out the too abundant undergrowth and weeds, and with this and a few small donations by persons owning lots in the cemetery or having loved ones buried there, some progress has been made; but with the limited means at their disposal the work is but half begun.

It is a work of love as well as local pride that prompts them, and they hope to be able not only to make the cemetery a more presentable place, but a place of beauty and to see that it is kept in that condition. This they cannot do unless they are substantially encouraged and helped by all who have loved ones resting there or own lots. For this reason the Daughters will be glad to receive donations from these and other liberally disposed persons with which to carry on the work they have so unselfishly undertaken. It is a shameful disgrace the way some of our cemeteries are neglected, when they ought to be made beautiful and inviting spots where the living may go without a sense of shame and neglect to visit the graves of loved ones and scatter the flowers of love which so many of us failed to bestow when they were still with us. But oh, "How soon we are forgot."

We hope this movement of the D. A. R. will arouse in our community a keener sense of duty and a larger respect for the last sleeping places of our dead, and a more generous spirit impelling us to make cemeteries what they should be. The individuals so far who have made donations are: Dr. Wm. Wescoat of Oran, \$2.00; Mrs. P. V. Ashburn, \$2.00; Misses Denby, \$1.00; J. E. Clay, 50c; Mrs. Barney Pelty, 50c; Mrs. Sarah E. Sebastian, 50c; John Mackley, 50c; Mrs. Waring, 25c; Miss Louise Mackley, 25c. The Daughters hope to hear from everyone who owns a lot in the K. of P. Cemetery with a liberal donation. Don't wait to be asked and don't be niggardly in your donations. Think of the unselfish work they are putting into this movement and be just as unselfish in your giving.

John Wilkerson and  
Wife Are Enjoined

John Wilkerson was convicted of violating the local option law at the recent term of the Circuit Court and appealed his case, but continuous reports have been coming to Prosecuting Attorney Davis that Wilkerson persists in his violation. On Wednesday of this week Mr. Davis filed with the Circuit Clerk an injunction against John and Ida Wilkerson, his wife, forbidding either of them keeping a restaurant where any kind of drinks, "soft" or otherwise, are sold. Judge Huck not being in reach, the Prosecuting Attorney, desiring immediate action, applied to the County Court for a temporary injunction, which was granted. Final action on the proceedings will be heard at the next term of the Circuit Court. A violation of the temporary injunction by either Wilkerson or his wife will subject them to contempt of court, and it is thought that perhaps this may restrain the old man's disregard of law.

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## AN OLD AND WORN OUT

### TELEPHONE SYSTEM

**But Is Still Serving The Company's Interest In Furnishing Excuse For Collecting the Rent And Tolls.**

Why should Farmington be forced to continue to have wished upon her an old, decrepit telephone system, which has long since well earned its right to being placed on the superannuated list, there to be tenderly and prayerfully cared for during its dotage? Isn't Farmington paying for first-class telephone service, and is she getting it, anytime or anywhere? How long will we be forced to pay for good service, and then have forced upon us the lowest possible order of service?

These questions are in line with the many The Times has recently heard in regard to Farmington's antiquated telephone system. In regard to how long Farmington will thus be imposed and infringed upon, it is The Times' opinion that the present inferior service could very quickly be brought to an end, after a report of the real condition of the Farmington Telephone System had been sent into the Public Utilities Commission, whose business it is to look into and to regulate such public service corporations.

But little or no effort appears to be made to accommodate the patrons of the system, insofar as this city is concerned. The one thing that is always apparently aimed at is to render the least possible service to permit of the collection of rents and tolls. The old Piggy System—good a decade ago, but now slightly out of style—is still doing service in Farmington. The one principal difficulty we have noticed with these phones is that up-to-date telephone users are generally compelled to ask for instructions before they can so much as get connections with "central."

And there it is again. Many, who after ringing the gong until their arm aches, are inclined to blame "central" with negligence. The truth is that there are not enough girls in the central office to properly attend to the wants of the public. They are capable and efficient, all right, but a pair of hands can do only so much, and the work that is required of them is often in excess of their supply of hands. So that in this respect, at least, the management of the Farmington Telephone System is very nearly approaching a crime, and if the Public Utilities Commission were acquainted with the existing conditions, The Times believes prompt action would be forced in remedying the aggravated defects.

Furthermore, it appears that Farmington is being legislated against in other respects. Throughout the entire Lead Belt we have noticed there is installed up-to-date telephones, while in the county seat of St. Francois county telephones of the vintage of the first product are still in use. The Times has been waiting, rather patiently, we feel, for some improvement in the telephone service, in conformity to promises we understand had been made many months since. But now, not only this paper, but this community in general, is rapidly arriving at a point where patience ceases to be a virtue, and a more or less general uprising now threatens among the telephone patrons if corrections are not soon made to improve Farmington's telephone system.

John Wilkerson and  
Wife Are Enjoined

John Wilkerson was convicted of violating the local option law at the recent term of the Circuit Court and appealed his case, but continuous reports have been coming to Prosecuting Attorney Davis that Wilkerson persists in his violation. On Wednesday of this week Mr. Davis filed with the Circuit Clerk an injunction against John and Ida Wilkerson, his wife, forbidding either of them keeping a restaurant where any kind of drinks, "soft" or otherwise, are sold. Judge Huck not being in reach, the Prosecuting Attorney, desiring immediate action, applied to the County Court for a temporary injunction, which was granted. Final action on the proceedings will be heard at the next term of the Circuit Court. A violation of the temporary injunction by either Wilkerson or his wife will subject them to contempt of court, and it is thought that perhaps this may restrain the old man's disregard of law.

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